

## THE COMMANDING OFFICER

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“Greetings from Al Asad, in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq! As the newly appointed Commanding Officer of Task Force MP, I would like to provide you an update on where we have been, where we are, and where we are going as a unit in regards to this deployment.

As you may have already heard from your deployed Marine or Sailor, there have been significant leadership changes directed by First Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) Commanding General, Major General Zilmer, that have resulted in several key leadership changes within 1/14. Rest assured, your service member and the entire unit has performed admirably during the course of this deployment. It is in their interest that such a critical decision was made and will best ensure that they receive the full support and confidence of their leadership to continue their mission.

Let us not forget the great things the Marines and Sailors are doing where the rubber meets the road. Among the major accomplishments achieved by the Task Force in recent weeks was the displacement of Headquarters Battery and Charlie Company MP's from Camp Fallujah. Throughout the month of May, several hundred Marines and Sailors closed shop in Camp Fallujah and helped facilitate the battalion headquarters' move to Al Asad, Iraq, where the additional missions of base defense were added to the existing mission set of detentions operations and convoy security escorts. It is important to me for each one of you to understand that every Marine and Sailor that embarks on a combat mission is doing so in a fully up-armored vehicle. These vehicles have bullet proof glass with the latest blast protection technology. Additionally, each has the newest body armor, groin and throat protectors. Not one of my Marines or sailors will go outside the wire without this protection.

We are also glad to report to you that Bravo Battery, which previously was in direct support of the base defense missions in Camp Fallujah, has been re-attached to its parent command and is now part of



**1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 14<sup>th</sup> Marines (-) (rein),  
4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division**

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Task Force MP. Their experiences in Camp Fallujah have been instrumental in the assumption of base security missions here in Al Asad, where they have the daunting task of regulating and controlling all inbound and outbound base traffic.

Perhaps the most exciting news to you may be that planning for our relief by follow-on units is underway. The half-way point of this deployment has been reached and the retrograde back to the United States will be here before long. But we ask that you encourage your Marines and Sailors to stay focused on the mission at hand and keep their head in the game. It will be tempting to think we are in the “clear” as we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel. But the very last convoy security escort, detainee transfer or route sweep will require the same, if not greater, attention to detail as the very first mission. In no way will the leadership here let its guard down in this matter and I promise you that your Marines and Sailors will uphold the high standards set forth by the Commanding General, Multi-National Forces West, Iraq.

Your Marines and Sailors of Headquarters Battery, Alpha Battery, Bravo Battery, Charlie Company, Echo Company, Tango Battery, Military Working Dogs Det, and all the Individual augments from throughout the Marine Corps are doing a superb job. They are heroes in my mind and my highest priority as their new Commander is to bring them home safely. I will take care of your loved ones as they are my own children.

We look forward to providing you the next newsletter update in August, when we will have some useful information for you in regards to the Task Force MP demobilization process and reunion of the Marines and Sailors of this unit with their loved ones at home. In the meantime, please continue to provide the outstanding family support that has been so instrumental in keeping your Marines and Sailors of Task Force MP motivated and moving in the right direction in a challenging and harsh environment. On behalf of Task Force MP, we continue to be extremely grateful to our most valuable player on the home front ... you!”

## FAMILY READINESS OFFICER

Battalion Family Readiness Comments:

Marine/Sailor families and friends,

Hello again to all the motivated families of the Marines/Sailors of Task Force MP. Another month has passed, and the Task Force has proven to be a valuable asset in country, while focusing on mission accomplishment and troop welfare, which are the ingredients for success. The Marines and Sailors conviction to their daily duties have not wavered, due to all the support they have received from home.

There have been changes within the battalion over the last month, but the combat mindset and motivation of the battalion continues to move in the right direction. Continue to send the e-mails, MotoMail, and care packages to your Marines/Sailors. Your efforts during this deployment continue to enhance the performance of your Marines/Sailors i.e. moral, enthusiasm, and motivation. Remember that each reserve center has the capability to provide resources to a family in need. The Family Readiness Officer (FRO), and the Key Volunteer Coordinator (KVC), is always ready to answer questions, and provide information in regards to family support.

Remember; Operational Security, please be careful on what information is sent, and received by your Marines/Sailors. Have an Outstanding Marine Corps Day.

Semper Fi,

**Sergeant Major John K. Bell**  
**2144 Clement Ave.**  
**Alameda, CA 94501**

## FAMILY READINESS OFFICER

### Battalion Family Readiness Officer

SgtMaj Bell 510-814-1608

### Alpha Battery

1stSgt Eggerling 720-847-7859

### Bravo Battery

1stSgt Campbell 815-725-7828

### Charlie Co MP

1stSgt Gomez 937-369-7073

### Hotel Battery

GySgt Raso 804-275-7805

## Key Volunteer's

From your Key Volunteer Coordinator

Dear Family and Friends of Task Force Military Police,

My name is Dawn Kemp, and I am the new Key Volunteer Coordinator (KVC) for the battalion. I have been the KVC for Headquarters battery for the better part of 14 years, and I'm very happy to take on this position in addition to my battery duties. What got me into being a KVC in the first place? Operation Desert Storm. During that time we didn't have a real family readiness program to speak of, so when the call went out to put the program in place I jumped at the chance to assist. Not only did it put me "in the loop" where I knew I was receiving good information, but it put me in the position to assist other family members in their times of need. Anyone who has been in the role of helper knows that's a great feeling.

## Key Volunteer's

From your Key Volunteer Coordinator

For those who don't know me, I have been married to my Marine for almost 18 years and we have 3 children (17 and 9 yr old boys, and a 14 yr old girl). In addition to my family and the Key Volunteer Network, I also work full time and volunteer for my kids' sports teams at their schools; I am currently PTA treasurer, Cub Scout pack advancement chair and Cub Scout den leader. Soccer is just around the corner so I may end up team mom again as well. As you can tell, I like to stay busy!

As the battalion KVC, I anticipate playing the role of advisor or sounding board. Each of the other batteries has capable KVCs and well-running networks, and I don't see the need to fix what isn't broken. However, since I've been doing this for so many years, I hope the different KVCs will take advantage of my experience and my ear.

One final note for HQ battery: on August 19<sup>th</sup>, we are holding a Return & Reunion Brief at the drill center in Alameda from 9am to 1:30pm. The day will include briefs from different entities such as, Military OneSource, Tricare, Admin. Section, and the Chaplin. Good information will be shared regarding post-deployment and what to expect when your Marine/Sailor returns home. Please RSVP to your Key Volunteer by the 16<sup>th</sup> if you plan on attending. If you are unsure who your KV is, contact me at the number below.

Thanks, and Semper Fi!

Dawn Kemp  
Battalion Key Volunteer Coordinator  
1/14 Task Force Military Police

(707) 933-9422



## **THE KVN TEAM**

### **Battalion Key Volunteer Coordinator**

Mrs. Dawn Kemp 707-933-9422

### **HQ's Battery Key Volunteer Coordinator**

Mrs. Dawn Kemp 707-933-9422

### **Alpha Battery Key Volunteer Coordinators**

Mrs. Stacy Roberds 719-495-1601

Mr. Bob Weesner 970-669-4482

### **Bravo Battery Key Volunteer Coordinator**

Mr. Peter Fichtner 269-445-1600

### **Charlie Co. MP Key Volunteer Coordinator**

Mrs. Joy Becker 937-416-1487

### **Hotel Battery Key Volunteer Coordinator**

Mrs. Prudence Milligan 804-262-7445

### **Tango Battery Key Volunteer Coordinator**

Mrs. Stephanie

DellaCostaSL.ctr@pendleton.usmc.mil

## **Key Volunteer Network Mission Statement**

*The Key Volunteer Network is a part of the Commander's official Family Readiness Program. The role of the KVN is to support and assist the Commander by providing improved communications between the command and the families, by developing a support network among families within the unit, and by establishing a focal point for information and referral to appropriate helping agencies. It is the primary communication link between the commanding officer and the unit's families for mission readiness. Key Volunteers all attend a training session to learn about the resources available to Marine families.*

## **With a Military ID card you are eligible to shop at the...**

### **Exchange**

The Exchange is similar to a department store. Savings are plentiful and you pay no taxes!!!

### **Commissary**

The commissary is a non-profit grocery store. All items are sold at cost plus a 5% surcharge (used to pay operating cost, the baggers work for tips so don't forget them).

### **COMMISSARIES**

<http://www.commissaries.com/>



## **DEERS**

The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System is a centralized automated system that captures, edits and maintains sponsor and family member data upon which eligibility for military health care (Tricare), Dental Care, and other benefits are determined. Marines and their immediate dependents are eligible. Enrollment in the SGLI program is now done automatically through DEERS.

Visit the [DEERS Web site](https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/swg/owa/webguard/login?a ppl=9012&rule=02)- this is the quick and easy way to update your information. The best time to update is during non-peak hours!  
<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/swg/owa/webguard/login?a ppl=9012&rule=02>

## **L.I.N.K.S**

L.I.N.K.S is now available online. To learn more about it go to:

<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/MCFTB/LINKS/online.cfm>

To access L.I.N.K.S. Online go to:

<http://www.marinenet.usmc.mil/>

Log in using your social security number and date of birth. Go to the Course Catalog and click on Marine Corps Training Courses. Click on L.I.N.K.S. and then enroll in the course. Once enrolled you will need to go to "My Account" and replace your Marine's name with yours as the user. Finally, launch the course. Now your journey begins!

## **Emergencies**

When our Marines get activated, it is of major concern that we are able to communicate with them if an emergency arises.

In case of an emergency (death or hospitalization of an immediate family member) contact the local Red Cross (<http://www.redcross.org>).

**You will need to have your Marine's:**

**Social Security Number**

**Name**

**Unit's Name**

**Location of the Unit**

**Nature of emergency or message**

The Red Cross will get the message to the Marine as soon as possible.

Email: [info@arcriohondo.org](mailto:info@arcriohondo.org)

Website: <http://www.arcriohondo.org>



### **Military One Source**

Military One Source is a referral service to help Marine families find information and services for any part of the United States. Translators are available.

[www.mccsonesource.com](http://www.mccsonesource.com)

User ID: Marines

Password: Semper Fi

or

(800) 869-0278



## **Battalion Sergeant Major 1 of 2**

“Greetings from Al Asad, in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq! As the newly appointed Sergeant Major of Task Force MP, I would like to provide you an update on morale and welfare of your deployed Marine or Sailor.

As you may already know through discussions with your deployed Marine or Sailor, there were several concerns revolving around pre-deployment training, travel compensation and initial deployment to Iraq that were ultimately expressed in a Commanding General directed “Command Climate Survey”. The resulting consistent feedback provided from this survey and additional observations made at the MEF staff level, warranted Major General Zilmer’s direct consideration in how to best steer Task Force MP back on track in regards to accomplishing its mission and safely returning home. It was not a lightly made decision, on his part, to subsequently relieve the key leadership of Task Force MP. Rather, it was in the best interest of the Marines and Sailors of the unit that such a drastic, mid-deployment leadership restructuring was directed. Rest assured, this in no way reflects the stellar performance of Marines and Sailors day in and day out during the course of their deployment.

Along with the close scrutiny of the First Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) Commanding General towards the health and welfare of Task Force MP, came additional outside expertise to make sure we are doing the things we needed to do to administratively take care of our Marines and Sailors. Particularly, our S-1 Administration section had the benefit of being visited by a MEF Admin Assist Team. This team, consisting of 3 very experienced personnel chiefs, was able to provide advice and tips in how to fine tune our administration operations. The good news was that there were no major discrepancies found and that many of the administrative concerns expressed in the Command Climate Survey had been addressed or were being currently resolved by the new admin leadership team of SSgt. Colinares, Sgt. Ramirez, Sgt. Rabanal and Sgt. Zibiri that came on board in March.

## **Battalion Sergeant Major 2 of 2**

Between the advent of soaring summer temperatures and the fluctuating power of the transient tents, the Marines and Sailors faced many challenges in regards to quality of life. But they have held their ground and kept their cool in the most trying of circumstances and I can now gladly inform you that all have been billeted in two or six person rooms, affectionately called “tin-cans”, which have the benefit of air-condition in their living spaces during off duty hours. There are two main dining facilities in which personnel are provided a wide variety of dietary options and they are encouraged to take a cold drink or two with them upon departure in an effort to maintain hydration at all time. In terms of connectivity with the home front, there is a large MWR facility here in Al Asad that has an internet café and DSN phone center that are free of charge.

We look forward to providing you another newsletter update in August when we hope to have some fixed dates for the October reunions at each Reserve Home Training Center. Until then, take care on the home front and Semper Fidelis. Your support is greatly appreciated.”

## Alpha Battery

Spouses, Family, and Loved ones,

On July 1, I had the privilege of presiding over 13 promotions across the Battery. I promoted G. Aguayo, R.M. Flatley, and W.A. Lucas to Staff Sergeant; J.A. Hatcher, J.B. Hills, L. Jimenez, P.H. Johnson, and C.M. Weise to Sergeant; B. Garcia, E.K. Lieb, M.C. Lopezponciano, and E.K. Weesner to Corporal; and K.W. Burmeister to Lance Corporal. We also sent three Alpha Battery Marines' packages to the Regimental Headquarters as the Battalions' nominations for meritorious promotion and Marine of the Quarter. The Battalions' nominations were Cpl J.R. Sampson for Active Duty Meritorious Sergeant, Cpl Z.B. Denham for Reserve Meritorious Sergeant, and LCpl M.A. Vainisi for Marine of the Quarter. We congratulate all of these fine Marines and wish the best of luck to those Marines competing at the Regimental level.

Believe it or not, we have passed the midway point following our departure from 29 Palms. Even better, we have started to have meetings to plan for our long awaited return. We will have to go through 29 Palms for 5 days or so, and then we will fly back to the respective home training centers (HTCs). I am sure you are all anxious to have us get back to yard work, shopping, helping take care of the children, and in those wonderful cases, seeing children for the first time that were born while we were deployed.

Our time in 29 Palms will be very intense; turning in gear, cleaning weapons, medical and dental appointments, etc. There will be precious little time for the Marines to even enjoy much time off, let alone trying to entertain family, spouses, and loved ones. In fact, off base liberty will not be granted. As you can see we will be very busy, and will have to initiate the unpleasant process of demobilization. The important thing to remember is that we will have flights to catch back to the HTCs, so we must meet our timelines. The sooner we accomplish this process, the sooner we can get started with the re-unions!

During September I will likely have a firm dates for our return to 29 Palms. Return dates to the respective HTCs will follow some time thereafter. I will forward this information to 1stSgt Eggerling and the KVN for dissemination when I receive it. The KVN network will have the correct information, so please avoid other "rumors." Rumors spread very quickly; I assure you there is a new one here every day.

The Marines and Sailors are performing extremely well, and you can be proud of each and every one of them, just as I am. You are all Great Americans and we think about you each and every day.

Semper Fidelis,  
*Major G. R. Deliberto*

## Bravo Battery

Families and Friends,

It has been an interesting month, very much out of the norm for a regular deployment. To begin with, we have undergone significant leadership changes both internally and externally. The Marines have ridden out the changes well and with it seen adjustments to operating procedures and slight mission reorientations. The Marines themselves are doing fine, and have grown into a pretty tight unit. They continue to work diligently and are very much looking forward to coming home.

Happily I can report that we've officially begun planning the retrograde home. Obviously I can't divulge any specific details, and though still several months away, it is imperative that we all start thinking and preparing for return reunions. During the pre-deployment briefs the chaplain spoke about the emotional phases of deployment. Over the next few months, these phases should be reiterated to both family members and Marines alike. Only by understanding these phases, can we begin to mitigate and minimize their impacts and smooth transition and reunion.

Therefore, I'd like to spend some time discussing upcoming phases in my next few messages. By now, everyone should have adjusted to separation. Currently, communication with your Marines should be cordial and eagerly anticipated. As redeployment looms closer, please be aware that communications may become increasingly difficult. Sometimes tensions build as pending reunion sparks fear of perceived forced change to this well established routine. This fear of change can become very emotional. I recall the final month of my last deployment as being the most difficult for my wife and I. Forcing issues into the open early, identifying the root causes of anxiety, and continued communication will significantly help combat tension.

Additionally, Corporal Williams received a commander's coin from Command Sergeant Major Mellinger (Command Sergeant Major of Forces in Iraq), and Lance Corporal Torres was nominated for combat meritorious promotion to Corporal.

Semper Fidelis,  
*Major G. R. Deliberto*

## Military Police Co "C"

Here is a brief up-date on what Marines of Charlie MP Company has been doing during the deployment. The Marines from Dayton, Lexington, and Pittsburg have been working some extremely hot and long hours in the recent months. You should be happy to know that every Marine here is taking their job very seriously.

The company is currently stationed Al Asad Air Base, in the Al Anbar Province, located in western Iraq. The company recently moved from temporary tent facilities to a more stable housing area. The Marines are living in six man trailers. Each trailer is equipped with an A/C unit. These new living conditions have been a great bonus these last couple of weeks as the weather continues to get hotter. 2<sup>nd</sup> (Dayton) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (Pittsburg) Platoon are currently conducting Convoy Security Team missions and have been escorting supply convoys through the entire western region. These missions sometimes require the Marines to be on the road for several days to complete, as they travel from base to base. 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon (Lexington) is patrolling along supply routes to ensure a strong US presence is maintained to prevent any insurgent activity.

During a recent convoy mission, Lance Corporal Jason E. Wilson, from Pittsburg, was injured. This was a tragic and unfortunate event, luckily his injuries were not severe and he will make a full recovery. He was sent to Germany soon after the incident, to receive medical treatment, and then will be heading back to the states. Please keep Lance Corporal Wilson and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Currently the company is scheduled to rotate sometime in October. The company will be coordinating with both the I&I staff at each reserve unit and perspectives key volunteers to update family members on our actual arrival date. Once a definite return schedule has been established, it will be released as soon as possible.

As a final reminder, the company staff asks that everyone do there part to maintain operational security. Please understand that the Marines here may not be able to discuss certain details while they are deployed. We understand that this can be frustrating at times but it is extremely important that details not be released over unsecured means of communication.



## Tango Battery

Dear Friends and Family,

We have passed the half-way mark on this deployment and the battery is going strong. The Marines have conducted a variety of missions over the course of this last month and continue to be asked for by units in this area. Your Marines have shown their versatility and professionalism in the execution of their daily missions.

I realize that word has probably made it home that things here have become more active recently and we have seen more contact than usual. This is true, but I want to alleviate your fears and reinforce to the families, that your Marines are well trained and have the best equipment possible to execute their mission. We have had several Marines slightly wounded and all have returned to duty. I speak to this not to scare anyone, but to reassure you that the equipment we have can take a lot of punishment and still protect the Marines inside. Your Marines have learned to trust their instincts and trust their feelings. They understand what is normal here and what is not. This all leads to successful missions and brings us closer to the ultimate goal of bringing everyone home safely.

I would like to thank those at home who keep us in their thoughts and prayers. Whatever you are doing is working, and we appreciate your support. I would also like to congratulate the Haro family on the recent birth of their daughter. Additionally, I would like to congratulate Cpl Gallegocastaneda and Cpl Vandewater on their recent promotions.

Respectfully,

Captain Keith

## Headquarters Battery

### 1 of 2

Uhh-rahhhh from our location at Al Asad air base in Al Anbar, Iraq. HQ battery has moved to our new base of operations and we're adjusting to the latest changes in Task Force Military Police (1/14). We've settled into our rooms (trailers) and are now comfortable with daily tasks. Some Marines are working normal daylight hours, while others are on the vampire shift, working mostly at night and sleeping for a better part of the day. Each schedule has its advantages and disadvantages.

We're just past 1/2-way done with our deployment, very soon we'll be counting down the days on fingers and toes. The plan is to be back in October, but we cannot and will not speculate on that date. We all know that the situation and timing can change, and we appreciate your flexibility in this matter. Once a date has been confirmed, it will get passed via the KV network, so please don't call the HTC with questions like "what date and time will my loved one return?" Also, when we return to CONUS (Continental United States, or better known as "home") we'll be going to Twentynine Palms first. We will spend a few days there going through medical screenings, debriefings, and meetings. The Marines will be busy and engaged, so this is NOT the place to welcome home the Marines and Sailors that have been so hard at work. Be patient and enjoy the homecoming at Alameda HTC! I appreciate your understanding in this matter.

The highest temperature we've seen yet was 115 degrees, but it will get hotter as the summer progresses. Most days there's a steady breeze, so it feels more like a hairdryer than purely an oven. We ask the Marines to stay hydrated, and there's more than enough water and sports drinks to keep us from suffering from thirst. There is supervision to ensure Marines are drinking water, but there isn't the "forced chugging" of water, nor the drinking of whole canteens at once. That practice isn't necessary here. The Marines and Sailors have been trained and educated, and they don't want to get dehydrated. We're all trying to stay healthy!

Last month I recognized the monumental efforts of our S-2 (Intelligence) section, this month I'm giving space to our honorary Marines, the Navy Corpsman that provide our medical support. The Corpsman work alongside us everyday, roughing it

## Headquarters Battery

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and toughing it out, providing outstanding medical care and training, enhancing our capabilities in many facets. *Medical sends...*

*HMCS Christopher Kotz and HM1(SW/AW/FMF) James Bruhn are the latest Sailors to qualify as Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialists with Task Force MP, 1st BN, 14th Marines. Both completed the arduous process of Personnel Qualification Standards, Practical Applications, Peer Boarding, and Final Boarding with the I MEF(FWD) Command Master Chief. This accomplishment serves to better integrate Sailors into the Marine Corps and establish a core capability of tactics and proficiency for all who wear the FMF insignia. All Sailors attached to Task Force MP, 1st BN, 14th Marines are eligible to obtain this warfare device.*

*HM1(FMF) Daniel Durgin earned the second Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal of his career for his actions in the Training Phase of TFMP Battalion Aid Station work up. HM1 Durgin was key to the medical training for all TFMP Hospital Corpsman during Intermediate Location (ILOC). He established and maintained Company Corpsman proficiency testing and ensured that Battalion Aid Station Corpsman developed and expanded Standard Operating Procedures that have provided a very successful foundation for the Medical Personnel attached to TFMP.*

*HM2 Leoncio Pena re-enlisted for 6 more years. On June 10th, 2006, HM2 Leoncio Pena re-affirmed the Oath of Enlistment at a small formation in front of the Base Defense Operations Center (BDOC) in Al Asad, Iraq. It is always something special to have a re-enlistment, it is ever so more special to re-enlist in a combat zone.*

Finally, I'd like to mention that I know the Newsletter is sometimes received 2-3 weeks after I write it. If you want more up-to-date news, call our Hotline at 1-866-270-9387 and press 8 when prompted. Twice per month the 1<sup>st</sup>Sgt and I leave a message, plus we let one of our young Marines or Sailors give a quick hello to their families. We're thinking about you back in the states, til next time. Semper fidelis,  
Maj Erik van Weezendonk  
HO Batterv Commanding Officer

## **S-2 Section**

FROM THE DUECE:

It's been four months and a half since I arrived in Iraq. From the moment I stepped into the sandbox, I was already missing home. We are now past the hump and things are said to be down hill from here. However, it's difficult to see the situation as "downhill". It's easy to forget all that we accomplished when there is still so much to do.

Three months prior to being mobilized, I had just graduated from what is arguably the epicenter of American liberalism, University of California, Berkeley. I've heard plenty of arguments of what's wrong in Iraq, and despite my own personal doubts, I've never been convinced of why we should not be here. A few sandstorms later, I've had the privilege of serving with the best group of people I have ever met. I am constantly reminded of the commitment the Marines and Sailors have shown through their everyday actions.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit a nearby village. There I encountered people who share the same hope and aspirations as I do; a better future. However, the freedom and choices I enjoy as an American are luxuries they cannot afford. The political and economic education I received reminds me of plenty of reasons why this country will not see progress in the near future. In my eyes, none of those reasons are good enough to halt our mission or diminish the hope of a stable Iraq.

I know now that our mission here is essential to the future of the Iraqi people. And now that we are close to returning home, it is important to come back together.

Cpl Z

## **Hotel Battery**

**1 of 2**

Hello to the Hotel Battery family from Camp Fallujah, Iraq! As you can imagine, we have had another busy month here. We have continued to execute many of the same type of missions as last month and several new ones. Some new places we have seen are Baghdadi, a small town along the banks of the Euphrates River (some of the pictures in this newsletter are from Baghdadi), Numiniyah, Camp Cropper and Forward Operating Base (FOB) Duke. The reason for some of these new missions is the valuable and insightful feedback and recommendations that the Marines and sailors provide after each mission. On many earlier missions, they ran into obstacles and friction points, that have now been eliminated based on their observations. In the few short months we have been here, they have already made a positive impact on how we operate, and this will make life easier for the follow-on units in Iraq. This is very typical of the professionalism and selflessness your Marines and sailors display on a daily basis.

In June, all three platoons and the headquarters section participated in a safety stand down. Because the Marines and sailors have so quickly and efficiently learned their mission, there exists the potential for complacency to creep into our daily routine. It's natural for them to seek routine and repetition, because that creates comfort and a feeling of safety but unfortunately allows complacency as well. To fight complacency, in addition to the natural discipline inherent in our leadership chain of command, the safety stand down will remind the Marines and sailors of the dangers they face not only during missions but in everyday things like maintenance, training events, physical training and even driving on

## **Hotel Battery**

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base. The Camp Fallujah Safety Office will be presenting information on convoy safety, weapons handling, personal protective equipment and general camp safety issues.

Also in June, the battery conducted leadership and ethics training. All Marines and sailors in our area of operations, Multi National Forces-West, were required to receive refresher training on leadership principles and ethics. The leadership training was primarily focused on the officers, staff NCOs and NCOs and the ethics training was for all Marines and sailors. Similar to the safety stand down, the leadership and ethics refresher training was designed to remind and emphasize the importance of proactive, solid leadership, discipline, doing the right thing at all times and at all levels of leadership and strict, ethical conduct.

The weather has put a damper on some of our recreational activities. It's more difficult to play softball or soccer or volleyball when the daily temperatures reach an average of 110 degrees Fahrenheit. The Marines and sailors in all three platoons and the headquarters section did manage to run and inventory physical fitness test in June, not for score but to ensure that in addition to all the other requirements, they are maintaining a minimum level of physical fitness. Hopefully they have also been calling, writing and emailing you.

Semper Fidelis!

Major Chris Warnke, USMC  
Commanding Officer  
Hotel Battery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, 14<sup>th</sup> Marines

## From the Chaplain 1 of 2

Dear Task Force MP Families,

As always, it is a joy to greet you from our home away from home. You are all aware that we moved from Camp Fallujah to Al Asad airbase. The move was really quite painless and we are all settling into our new quarters. Geographically the area here is very different than Fallujah as it is much more barren and there are several large hills and plateaus that surround us.

Many of you may know that many events found in the Old Testament took place in what is modern day Iraq. Scripture is full of the cities, places and personalities that make up the early history of this region. Southern Iraq was home to the Chaldeans, whose center of commerce and culture was the city of Ur. Just south of Baghdad was Babylon and the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar. Remnants of Babylon's Gardens are still standing as are several other ancient structures. As you move further north and west you come into the land of the Assyrians or sometimes referred to in the Old Testament as Haran which is city near the Euphrates River. In another article you will find some interesting facts about Iraq and the Bible. I hope you enjoy them.

Here at Al Asad there is a bit of that history in our midst. For miles around the landscape is bare and desolate. Sand blows up in the wind every day and the summer heat is amazing. For the nomadic tribes who wandered this land it must have been a very difficult life. But on this base there is a brilliant spot of green that stands out in remarkable contrast to the desert around us. A small pool of crystal clear water is surrounded by tall grass and other plants. Small fish and frogs swim in the water and birds sing nearby. A large grove of date palms provide shade from the heat of the day. It is the Eyen Al Asad (Spring of the Lion) oasis. It is believed that the name comes from a time when this area had more vegetation and many wild animals would have come here for water. Today it is a beautiful glimpse of life in the otherwise tan landscape.

## From the Chaplain 2 of 2

According to Arab legend the oasis was visited by Abraham as he journeyed with his family from Ur to Haran. It is said that the great patriarch of the Hebrews and Muslims stopped at the oasis, drank and bathed there, and that his family camped there for a short time. While the journey from Ur to Haran is mentioned in Genesis 11:31, there is no mention of Abraham stopping at this particular oasis in the Hebrew or Islamic writings.

The legend is held with enough regard that the site is treated as a sacred place and access is limited to organized tours and working parties which keep the area clean. Did Abraham actually stop here? We cannot say for sure, but he could certainly have passed through this area on his journeys. Such an oasis would have been a logical place to stop and refresh during a long trek. Many legends are based, largely, in truth and a normal stop on a journey might not get a mention in the larger scriptural account.

In the next couple of weeks I will begin taking our Marines on tours of the oasis. We'll walk in the cool shade of the palms and see the pool that gives them life. Then they can decide whether it is just a good story, or a bit of ancient history that they were able to encounter.

Know that your Marines are well and doing a remarkable job of accomplishing the mission that is set before them. They are dealing with the heat and the duration of our deployment with strength, perseverance and lots of bottled water. I can also say that they will be more than glad to get back home to family and friends when our time here is completed.

Take care of yourselves and remember to keep writing and emailing your Marines. It really does mean a lot to them. And, of course keep them in your prayers as you remain in ours.

Blessings,

Chaplain Reed

## Battalion Promotions and Awards

### June Promotions

MSgt B. Kemp	GySgt Schiller - CM
HM1 D. Durgin	HM2 T. Asangmbeng
HM2 E. Singh	Cpl J. Arde - CM
Cpl Crawley - CM	LCpl Maharaj
LCpl Stevens	
CM: Combat Meritorious Promotion	

### July Promotions

MSgt R. Pagan	GySgt T. Bendinelli
GySgt Stuart	SSgt Aguayo
SSgt R. Duran	SSgt Flatley
SSgt Johnson	Sgt Biyok
Sgt Fong	Sgt Goodman
Sgt Hatcher	Sgt Jacobs
Sgt Lahmon	Sgt Machain
Sgt Phan	Cpl Anguiano
Cpl Aguilar	Cpl Garcia
Cpl Jackson	Cpl Lieb
Cpl Phan	Cpl Ruiz
LCpl Varelas	
HM1(FMF) S. League selected to Chief Petty Officer!!!	

### Our latest award recipients

SSgt Hurlbert - NAM	HM1 Durgin - NAM
Sgt Curry - CC	Sgt Donovan - NAM
Sgt Hill - CC	Sgt Leslie - CC
Sgt Zubiri - NAM	Cpl Crabtree - CC
Cpl Frost - CC	LCpl Juhasz - NAM

NAM: Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal  
CC: Certificate of Commendation

Sgt Quinones Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter  
HM3 Ramirez Sailor of the Quarter

## GOOD JOB MARINES AND SAILORS!



TOMB OF THE BLUE FALCON, AL ASAD



INSIDE THE OPERATIONS CENTER



AL ASAD SUNRISE



CORPORAL CRABTREE RECEIVES A  
NAM FROM LTCOL HARRISON



GYSGT SCHILLER COMBAT  
MERITORIOUS PROMOTED BY LTGEN  
ZILMER, COMMANDING GENERAL



CPL CRAWLEY COMBAT  
MERITORIOUSLY PROMOTED



SGT GOODMAN PROMOTION





GYSGT STUART PROMOTION



SGT PHAN PROMOTION



CPL AGUILAR PROMOTION



LCPL MAHARAJ PROMOTION



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
FOLLOWING A BTRY MARINES FOR  
COMPLETING THE PROSCRIBED  
SYLLUBUS FOR GREEN BELT IN  
THE MARINE CORPS MARTIAL  
ARTS PROGRAM**

CAPTAIN CARLSON,  
SERGEANTS EVERSOLE, HILLS,  
JOHNSON P., SHAW, CORPORALS LOPEZ  
M., SAMPSON, TODT, LANCE  
CORPORALS BLAZIER, CULLEN,  
DALTON, DUNN, FITCH, HAVERKAMP,  
JENKINS, KNIGHT, MARTINEZ,  
MCDOWELL, MORRISON, NORTHRUP,  
PHILLIPS, PUGA, SCOTT, SPEIDELL, ,  
STEWART, STINNETT, ZAMMARON, PFC  
ACKELSON, GUTKNECHT, HUNINGTON,  
HM3 MENDOZA, HN RICE

LCPL STEVENS PROMOTION



MARINES FROM ALPHA BATTERY  
HANGING OUT WITH TOBY KEITH

